

the Alabama Senator emphasize his belief that the shortening of hours through NRA code provisions helped up recovery, but he believed only scratched the surface of the problem and that more drastic measures are needed.





# BAR HARBOR

## Trade Unions Only Means for Solving Workers' Problems

Only Through Unity Can Workers Expect to Maintain American Living Standards—Enforcement of NEA Most Essential to Future Success of Labor Movement—Coming Year Should be Greatest in Organized Labor's History.

By ALONZO F. YOUNG, President of Maine State Federation of Labor.

At this time, the fact should be recalled that the workers of this state are organized by all workers that their only salvation is through organization. Only through unity and united action can they receive any enforcement whatsoever of laws favorable to labor.

I have always been under the impression that any laws upon the statutes of the state or any act of Congress was to be enforced by officers of officials who are either elected or appointed to serve for the common interests of the people. Evidently I am mistaken, as the open violation of the National Recovery Act, especially Section 7 (a), by unscrupulous employers and unfair politicians, has been allowed to stand ever since the inauguration of the Act, with absolutely no provision being made to enforce the provisions favorable to labor, except that which has been accomplished by organized labor.

We have waited for more than a year for some action on the part of administrators and compliance officers, which would tend to carry out the precepts and purpose of the Act, to increase, purchase power and decrease the hours of labor, thereby relieving the very serious problem of unemployment. Admitting there has been some improvement in conditions, I make the statement that there is a contradiction that progress has been impeded and retarded by that element which is so antagonistic to labor and its desires.

**Refuting Rights of Labor**

The employers have formed organizations and associations for their mutual benefit as regards fair competition but have used these same organizations in many instances for the sole purpose of defeating the rights of labor, their only ethics seeming to be obsequious and discouraging, and stopping in every possible way the organization of workers.

Just as long as the workers are con-

transpiring in the minds of laboring men and women.

The workers themselves are coming to realize the injustices of these and are fast joining legitimate unions. The company unions are absolutely harmful to the best interests of labor and they are dying a speedy death, and it will be a pity for us when they are entirely eliminated.

**End of Company Unions**

As I have previously stated, the sole solution to the problems of the workers is through organization and when I say organization I mean the American Federation of Labor and its many affiliates. I am fully convinced that within one year there will be no independent unions in this country, and we will all be enrolled under one banner, fighting for our common cause, and when that day arrives, Labor's voice will be heard with great respect by the political and economic directors of our country.

Let us not forget that regardless of

## Unemployment May Cause Big Increase in Relief Payments

Unemployment conditions in Bar Harbor indicate that next Winter's relief rolls will mark an unprecedented figure unless means are taken to prevent a two or three month period of unemployment, writes Alonzo F. Young, president of the Maine State Federation of Labor and in charge of the fourth district.

The only project of any considerable size now in course of construction, Mr. Young states, is the new police station which is being erected for the Standard Oil Co.

With the closing of summer residences, on which a goodly number of building mechanics had been employed during the summer months, has greatly increased the list of unemployed, and the outlook at the present time is gloomy.

"At this writing," Mr. Young states, "the weather is unusually cold here,

with heavy snow falls throughout this section, and is not helping the lot of the idle workers, many of whom were unemployed formerly to meet this unexpected condition."

## Painting and Paper-Hanging Code Members Discuss Industry

A meeting of the regional code committee of the painting and paperhanging division of the construction industry was held here last evening. There were eleven members in Maine, of whom being Fred L. Carter of Bar Harbor, president of the Bar Harbor Painters and Paperhangers Union, and R. H. Kavanagh of Bangor was the speaker.

The session was followed by a banquet at the Hotel de Ville, where the State of Maine Society of Master Painters and Paperhangers, which has chapters in Bangor, Bar Harbor, and Bangor and Bar Harbor, R. H. Kavanagh of Bangor was the speaker.

## CANADIAN LABOR UNIONS SEEK UNIFORM DOMINION LABOR LEGISLATION

Trades and Labor Congress Seeks End to Policy of Keeping Workers Divided Along Sectional and Provincial Lines—President Tom Moore and All Other Officials Are Re-elected.

Toronto, Oct. 13 (LNS)—"Tom" Moore, president, and all the other members of the Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress, were re-elected at the annual convention here. A special feature of the convention was the strong national feeling shown by delegates from the Dominion and an end to the policy of restricting labor's aims by keeping the workers divided in sectional and provincial compartments.

The "parliament of Canadian labor" dealt with many matters of importance. An achievement during the sessions was the repeal by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission of a recent order forbidding its employees to take part in politics. This order was bitterly attacked by the delegates.

It took a year to secure the repeal of a similar order applied to the Canadian National railway employees prior to the presidency of Sir Henry Thornton; but in two days the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission rescinded its obnoxious order.

**Hopeful Trend Shown**

The Legislative Committee noted that Parliament and the provincial legislatures were showing a tendency to explore methods of dealing with the problems created by the economic crisis, a refreshing change from the policy of inaction in the past. "Increased consideration of the human element in industry and agriculture is largely the result of the efforts of

organized labor to awaken the public conscience."

The Congress went on record as opposing the policy of "protection" financial interests to annul the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railway wage under-privileges.

**Proposed Program**

Proposed for coping with the depression included: the six-hour day and five-day week; compulsory unemployment insurance; minimum wage laws for families; eight-hour day for domestic; addition of union-made street cars; two day work for all transport trucks.

The Congress declared against Fascism and war in public of uniform forms of a political party.

Noting the possibility of Canadian industries to develop codes along the lines of the NIRA, the Congress passed a resolution of recommendation at the prevention of abuses and the protection of the rights of labor.

Delegates from the provinces having minimum wage laws for men stated that in any case such wages were necessary to secure the enforcement of such laws.

The delegates numbered 255, representing 150,000 workers. A delegate from a plumber's union in Ontario was rejected because he was also a member of a Communist organization.

**Demands "Individual" Bargaining**

"Wall Street Journal" Advances Banned Doctrine in Attack on National Labor Relations Board's Ruling.

The "Wall Street Journal" is dreadfully distressed because the National Labor Relations Board has ruled that when a majority of the employees in an industrial "unit" vote to authorize an individual or "representative" them in negotiations with their employer, the agreement which results shall be binding on all employees in that particular unit. The Journal says:

But, says the Journal, the employer is denied the opportunity to negotiate a wage bargain with a minority of its men, or with any of them individually.

It's there's the rub! The object of the recovery law is to secure collective bargaining, and the Journal says the employers for whom it speaks are prepared to wreck the President's recovery plan unless they can have individual bargaining.

Of course, such a scheme would prove an industrial chaos. Imagining railroad negotiating with each of its employees to determine how much he should receive for his day's work? There might be as many wage schedules as there are men.

For years they clamored for that privilege, but the anti-trust laws stood in the way. Now the anti-trust laws have been set aside so the bosses may form their own "unions". They are to have collective bargaining, and the boss who objects will be "put on the spot."

The Journal enters no objection to that. But it insists that when the worker seeks to fix his hours, wages and working conditions he shall come alone, cap in hand, to do business with his employer.

The labor movement is content to go to the country on that issue. The American union of Maine is so astrophied that it will entertain such a manifestly unjust proposal.

## New Hampshire State Federation Re-elects Barry President

John L. Barry of Manchester, was re-elected president of the New Hampshire State Federation of Labor at the closing session of a two-day convention held in Keene last Saturday and Sunday. Manchester was chosen as the convention city in 1933.

Other officers elected are: David D. Bissett of Concord, Mrs. A. M. G. G. of Keene, Carl Matthews of Newmarket, Vincent Melino of Manchester, Fred Cushman of Portsmouth, David Fendley of Berlin, vice-presidents; R. H. Crowell of Portsmouth, secretary-treasurer. President Barry, Joseph LaVallee, A. J. Moquin and Charles Young of Manchester, and Eugene O'Neill of Concord, were elected members of the executive board.

Among the speakers were Charles Morris, New England organizer for the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers of America; Prof. Herman Feldman of Dartmouth College, and Harry A. Russell, director for the Eastern Area of the Workers' Education Bureau of America.

Resolutions were adopted in favor of minimum wage scales, interstate commerce and collective bargaining.

The delegates also expressed appreciation to Governor Winant for his help in the interests of labor.

It will be greatly appreciated if, when making purchases from our merchants, you will please mention The Labor News.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS QUIZZED REGARDING ATTITUDE ON LABOR MEASURES BY LABOR FEDERATION

A. F. of L. Makes Definite Inquiries Into the Legislative Records of Candidates for United States Senate and the House on Measures of Interest to Labor—Six Questions Included in Program of Inquiry.

The American Federation of Labor announced today that it is sending definite inquiries into the legislative records of candidates for the United States Senate and House of Representatives on measures of interest to labor. The inquiry includes the following questions:

1. Will you vote for the extension of the National Recovery Act and retain therein Section 7 (a), providing for the right to organize and bargain collectively, the prohibition of child labor and the elimination of unfair trade practices?

2. Will you support social justice legislation providing for old age pensions, unemployment insurance, work security and health protection?

3. Will you vote for a measure providing that all codes under the National Recovery Act should contain a thirty-hour week and a six-hour day?

4. Will you support legislation similar to the Wagner-Lewis bill introduced in the last session of Congress providing for unemployment insurance?

5. Will you support legislation similar to the Wagner-Corson Labor Disputes Bill with amendments drafted and supported by the American Federation of Labor?

6. Will you support legislation providing adequate appropriations necessary for a public works program as a partial remedy for unemployment and for relief of dependent unemployed workers and their families?

In a letter sent to every candidate, William Green, president of the A. F. of L., gave the following explanation of the purpose of the questioning:

"The National Recovery Act has been of great benefit and its extension is necessary. It should retain, however, Section 7 (a), providing for the right to organize and bargain collectively, the prohibition of child labor, and the elimination of unfair trade practices."

The American Federation of Labor practices.

"We believe that all codes should contain a clause establishing the six-hour day and six-hour week."

"That there be a social justice legislative program provided to Congress which will prevent, for old age pensions, unemployment insurance, work security and health insurance."

"There is pressing necessity for further appropriations for public works, the horrors of previous winters should be permitted to continue. Such appropriations will be a partial remedy at least for unemployment and the relief of the dependent unemployed workers and their families."

**Information Goes to Trade Unions**

In order that we can give the various Congressional Districts and the States where Senators are to be elected, will be informed of the answers and requested to vote accordingly. If replies are not received within a reasonable time, it will be considered that you are opposed to all the legislation urged by the American Federation of Labor and our members will be so informed."

**Hudson Factory Gain 109 Per Cent**

Factory shipments of the Hudson Motor Car Company for eight months ending August 31, aggregated 72,114 cars, including both Hudson and Terraplane shipments. This represents an increase of 109 per cent over shipments for the corresponding period last year. The total was also 77 per cent in excess of the total shipments for the year 1933—Detroit Dispatch to Washington Herald.

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OCTOBER, 1934

## Idle People Must Help Themselves

Government's Plan for Manufacturing Wearing Appa-  
ratus for the Poor and Needy Wholly Justifiable.

Some leather manufacturers are expressing great concern lest the government use any of its millions of cattle hides to make boots and shoes for the idle poor who have no footwear and also have not the money to buy with. The shoe manufacturers, especially, profess to see a great menace to their industry, notwithstanding the fact that they have been getting fat government contracts for Army and Navy shoes for years and years past. All they want is the whole hog and something over.

To these men, it seems better for the government to tax people to furnish money to do things which the otherwise idle people can do for themselves. Even the pledge and promise that such community work would not be allowed to go on the outside market, did not seem to be used for the community poor, did not satisfy them. "Give us all the business," is their cry.

It seems to be overlooked that the idle people are being supported by those who are working, and that those who are working are becoming more and more crushed and weary with the ever-increasing burden. Finally, there is such a thing as the end of credit. When that time comes, the end will be in sight.

There is no way out of the depression except by permitting the idle people to help themselves. It is estimated that there are between 12,000,000 and 15,000,000 people out of employment. No government can support such a load indefinitely. Our government funds, in hand or potential, are limited. Our resources are unlimited. Why ruin the national credit by disregarding the plain economic facts?

There is no desire on the part of the government to go into the business of making shoes and other wearing apparel, and by this means come into competition with private industry. The present plan is for the purpose of meeting an extraordinary emergency, and if manufacturers of shoes and other products were fair, and permitted their greed to take a short vacation, they would not object as strenuously as they do to the government's plan to aid the poor and needy.

The New Deal has done a lot toward helping these manufacturers, who, for the most part, were in pretty bad shape last year. The hundreds of millions they had lost as the result of the depression, was more than made up during the past year and this, it would seem, should prompt them to cooperate with the Administration in its efforts to provide for the millions of unemployed.

It is the government's duty to make provision for the care of the unemployed. The unemployment problem has caused an emergency to exist, and until private industry has been able to absorb these unemployed millions, it is perfectly sound and proper for the government to take such means as will warrant temporary relief.

## The CCC and Its Great Work

Under Supervision of Robert Fechner, 300,000 Young Men Are Not Only Being Fed but Will Pay Rich Dividends But Are Being Molded Into Active and Worth-While Citizens.

Nothing but praise, generally, is heard of the aims, objects and general accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which under the general organization of Robert Fechner, former vice-president of the International Association of Machinists, has added a chapter of real national progress to the history of the New Deal.

Hundreds of thousands of young men, rendered homeless and almost desperate by continued idleness and want, have been turned into active and worth-while citizens in their newly found occupation. This provides them with the essentials of life—food, clothing and shelter.

The nominal sum which they receive for their work, \$30 a month, is but a symbol of the appreciation of the Government, and is not intended, nor

even represented, to imply any basic wage scale. That the most of this money goes to the families of these young men, giving the latter a boon in place of the burden of the formerly unemployed member of the household, is a particularly helpful feature of the whole CCC plan.

Work of the young men includes forest fire prevention, building of trails, roads, dams and other projects. Extermination of plant and forest pests would alone justify the employment of the corps.

The work which is now being done will repay itself in rich dividends for the present, and more especially for future generations. Compared with many purely needless and non-liquidating projects which have been entered upon as an obvious by-pass to benevolence, the work of the CCC stands in a class by itself.

And for this happy result, Robert Fechner, the able and efficient labor organizer and administrator, is receiving a just meed of praise. We need more like him in the general scope of the NRA.

## Law's Delay Contrary to Constitutional Guarantees

Keeping Victims in Jail for Months Awaiting Trial is Hindrance to Solution of Crime Situation.

It may be surprising to some folks to know that insofar as the dispensation of justice is concerned, we are several thousands of years behind the most primitive tribes of present or ancient times. What the spinal column is to the human body, so is the element of reasonable speed in the administration of the law. Savage and barbarous tribes may not have the best laws in the world, but they represent the will and judgment of the majority. Moreover, savages would not tolerate indefinite delay in the execution of the decrees of the court, which is the chief, when the evidence had been fully presented.

But, today, we read that the need of a judge of the Federal Court, First District, Boston, is such that 200 criminal cases—some of them of long duration—are awaiting trial. Meantime, prisoners have been held in jail for months and months, having been unable to raise bail, and their cases not having been called to trial.

That this is a dishonorable and outrageous situation in a Commonwealth like Massachusetts goes without saying. Why do we bother to hold national conferences on the crime situation when we do not even furnish the judicial machinery for handling cases brought before the court?

Another ridiculous phase of this congested docket is that judges are being loaned, from court to court, for the purpose of some special emergency case. All the above is plainly contrary to our Constitutional guarantees of speedy justice. It is convicting at crime on the part of those in high places.

## Manufacturers and the Cost of Living

Most Important is Payment of Dividends, With Little Thought to Decent Living Standards and Comfort of Employees.

A passenger on a ship which was in danger of foundering in mid-ocean, in the good old days, was called to the pumps, along with the crew. He dissented because, as he said: "I have paid my passage, and that ends my concern!"

"Pump, or hang," said the captain. He pumped!

So, in our economic system there be some manufacturers who can see nothing but profits. Just how industry can be maintained with an army of idle and suffering people does not appeal to their independent passenger, that their concern ended with their investment! It does not; it never will!

One would imagine that manufacturers, to whom the successful and continuous operation of their plants should be a first consideration, would have a keen and sensitive regard for everything that affected the cost of living of their employees? It does not. They do not seem to consider that the aim and object of working is—to get the means to live by, and that the higher the cost of living, the more wages must be paid out to balance the added cost!

Some local manufacturers have sat still and allowed the trolleys, an invaluable adjunct to their plants, to almost die of lack of patronage. They should have been the first ones to see, that their workers were suffering from cheap and extensive transportation. They should also consider themselves with the cost of food and housing. On such things depend the harmony or disharmony, of industrial relations. But, they prefer to close their eyes and their ears to the signs and portents of the times.

They will finally awake from their sad self-delusion when the harm has been done. It is such blind indifference and half-way thinking that is at the bottom of most of our industrial unrest. Providence is no exception.

It is time for public men, who have the time and the courage, to speak out boldly on such public questions. The Dark Ages manufacturers are their own worst enemies because they do not take into consideration that men must live, not merely work, or work, or be prematurely dismissed and cast upon the social scrap heap to be a burden upon the community.

"Evil is wrought by want of thought," but the blind industrialist needs it not!

## Gen. Johnson on the Way Out

Had Won Laurels as Administrator of Recovery Act, But Spoiled It All When He Accused "Tom" McMahon of "Double-Crossing."

Of all the epithets and wise-cracks used by General Hugh S. Johnson while administering the National Recovery Act, and which were sarcastic-sounding, none had as much effect in decreasing his popularity as had his accusation against President Thomas F. McMahon of the United Textile Workers, to the effect that he was a "double-crosser."

The general's wise opponents, who took occasion to make him appear as a "low-down" in the estimation of conservative people, to wage earners, and all enthusiasts over the success of the New Deal, his statements lent emphasis to his actions, and were regarded as coming from a man who was sincere, and who meant what he said.

But, when the general turned-turtle and accused President McMahon of being a "double-crosser," and failed to offer any evidence to prove his statement, he lost millions of friends, who now greatly question not only his sincerity but his veracity as well.

Coming at a time when workers and sympathizers throughout the nation were yearning for a settlement of the general textile strike, accusation or any kind of criticism from one whose purpose was demanded mediation rather than criticism, was considered as extremely bad judgment, and gave cause for questioning the General's honesty of purpose.

It is most regrettable that after having performed such valuable service for more than a year, during which he had solicited the support and friendship of the organized Labor movement, he chose to bring onto himself the enmity of Labor.

Occurring as this did, on the eve of his retirement, makes the incident all the more regrettable, as it gives working people reason to believe that which they had been told regarding his desire to have cord established favorable to industry, without regard for the interests of those who produce.

Notwithstanding this, the great majority of workers had implicit faith in Gen. Johnson. Millions who had no jobs prior to his administration of the NRA, and were made self-supporting later, were slow to question his honesty and sincerity, and had kept his mouth closed, and permitted the strike to be settled without interference, he would have gone down in history as one of the country's greatest and most capable men.

## What "Stretch-out" is to the Textile Industry

Machine is Perfect: That One Man Today Is Required to Produce as Much as 443 Men Were 100 Years Ago.

The "stretch-out" system as practiced today in the textile industry is a challenge to the economic thought and business structure of the country. This is a term used to indicate the increased machine load per worker, and raises the question of whether the individual is to be displaced by the machine monster or ground down to the level of the common laborer.

In no other field in recent years has machinery made such inroads upon hand labor and upon the employment of human beings as in the textile industry. It reaches its climax in the Southern States where the workers, ground down to abject poverty by low wages and with largeness resisted by every resource of the inventive genius of mill management, have been helpless to prevent their displacement by the machine.

A little over 100 years ago, when cotton manufacture first began in this country, each loom in use required the attention of not less than three skilled and expert weavers. But as improvements were made in loom machinery, the proportion of looms to workers gradually increased to a point where, 20 years ago, the number of looms to the single worker had been raised to 20. Today, in some of the big cotton mills of the nation, especially those producing gauze and cheesecloth, the single weaver is caring for 148 looms.

This is an increase of 444 in the ratio of machinery to human workers. In other words, 443 more workers would have been employed a little more than 100 years ago are today displaced by the machine.

It should be borne in mind, however, that whether the individual worker is attending 60 or 148 looms, the work load has been stretched to the limit of his physical endurance, and that mill managements are making constant studies of ways and means by which this work load may be increased, or, in other words, the human being further displaced by the machine.

Textile workers are protesting this condition because they have seen the machine output enormously increased without any corresponding increase in pay and by a constant reduction in their ranks of employed. The facts are that machines have been so perfected and made so automatic that they constantly need less skilled attendants, with the rates of pay far below what they were before the machine loads and work loads were so multiplied.

In the Southern States, the "stretch-out" system is being used at its maximum, with weavers and other highly skilled workers virtually reduced to the status of common labor and drawing common labor rates of pay. And in addition to this,

these mills have been the most obstinate in yielding to any system of collective bargaining, or making any concessions whatever in recognition of the human or legal rights of their employees.

No matter what attitude the individual citizen may take toward the general strike of the textile workers, he must give recognition to the fact that the skilled textile worker has a real and fundamental grievance against the machine monster, which is slowly trampling him down, and that this individual problem of his own is likewise a national problem that challenges the attention of the economic thought and business policy of this day.

## The Peace Outlook in Textiles

Personnel of President's Board Assures Square Deal For All Employed in Industry

President Roosevelt's appointment of the Steel Labor Relations Board to double as the Textile Labor Relations Board is regarded in Washington as a masterpiece. This board, composed of Judge Walter P. Stacy of the Supreme Court of North Carolina; James A. Mullenback of Chicago, and Henry A. Wiley, retired Admiral of the U. S. Navy, has experience, character and prestige.

Judge Stacy's position speaks for itself. He has served on five railroad arbitration boards. Admiral Wiley has also served on railroad arbitration boards, and they keep coming back to him for further services. Mullenback got his start in labor relations by acting as peacemaker for the clothing workers of Chicago—no job for a timid man.

Together, as the Steel Board, they held an election in the steel mills at Huntington, West Virginia. The regular union had a majority of all votes cast, and the board, brushing aside the contention of the steel companies, that majorities do not count against a company union, certified that this corporation would have to deal with the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

The board has a very difficult job on hand in the textile difficulty. It used to be said that great numbers of people on both sides who lived after the Civil War never learned for thirty years that the aforesaid war was over. A similar state of what might be called "suspended information" seems to afflict a large number of textile mill bosses, particularly in the South.

They are refusing to put union workers back to work. In several communities, these workers are being evicted from their company-owned houses. One father writes from a textile town that his two sons have been discharged for the crime of going out with their fellows; and that one of them, whose wife is expecting an addition to the family, in a few weeks, nevertheless has been thrown out of the house they occupied.

No good ever was done or ever will be by such tactics. They are merely instances of half-baked "frightfulness" which angers much more than it frightens. To be fair, only a minority of the mill owners have resorted to this stupid bullying; and it is believed that they will yield to the insistence of the new board.

## The Reason for Strikes as Seen by Mr. Woll

A. F. of L. Vice-President Says Few People Would Have Known Regarding Plight of Textile Workers Had It Not Been for the Recent Strike

In a recent radio talk, Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, spoke of the strike as "the weapon of last resort," and defended it on the ground that it is used effectively where all other means have proven of no avail. Mr. Woll said:

"The strike in many instances is a weapon of public protest. In this instance it is largely an instrument for calling public attention to a condition of injustice which labor finds it impossible to adjust in any other manner."

"A month ago, very few people in this country thought very much about the plight of the textile workers; today, as a result of the recent general strike, it is a matter of dominant public interest. It is a piece of labor strategy which dramatizes a situation in a way which can be done in no other way."

"It is a perfectly constitutional right for man not only to work but also to withhold his labor. Unless men are serfs or slaves this right of free choice is one which is a constitutional part of the guarantee of every American citizen."

"To say, however, that it is legal; to say that it is at times necessary, is not to say that it is always the most efficient way of handling an industrial controversy."

"It must be abundantly clear that the strike weapon is a counsel of last resort. It should never be used by labor as a first weapon."

Conciliation, conference, cooperation, should all be forerunners of any drastic strike action. "After all, the strike is like the surgeon's knife—it represents the extreme necessity and is not a matter for continuing use."

## A BAD SMELLING BUSINESS

And now the American people learn from the Senate that American munitions makers are willing to sell gas bombs and machine guns to be used against their own countrymen who are striking against over-work and under-pay. All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten a hand engaged in that business.

## Sinclair's Philosophy Sounds Good

EPIC Plan Declared Great Human Appeal and California People Take Seriously in Campaign for Governorship.

When Upton Sinclair announced that he was leaving California, where he captured the Democratic nomination for Governor, to see President Roosevelt, the dispatches from Hyde Park announced that "politics would be banished" in the discussion, Sinclair planned to stay with the President one hour, but at his request of the latter he stayed double that time. And nothing was "banned."

Next day he was in Washington at the luncheon table of the National Press Club. In the spacious banquet hall every seat was occupied and the paper cyprian was the opening act of most of the great press of the city and their guests. Before Sinclair had finished his talk and the answering of questions, the great newspapermen had accepted his plan rather seriously. The writer of this pamphlet, who had a positive indication of one of the guests that Sinclair would be defeated, said that he had happened to have read all about the Hyde Park conference, and his friends had been talking of it. Sinclair had been thought he would lose his bet, and I hope he is now saving up to pay.

The point is that the so-called EPIC plan has a great human appeal, and it is interesting to note that the president and the most skeptical newspaper group in the world have concluded that there is a story to think about, most seriously, in the experiments that Upton Sinclair proposes to the people of California.

Sinclair has pronounced a new political philosophy, and it is interesting to note that he explained, and to read about it. The destiny of the philosophy and its practice will be decided by the people of the great State of California.

## LABOR QUERIES

Questions and Answers on Labor: What It Has Done Where It Stands on Problems of the Day. By James A. Woll, Vice-President of the A. F. of L. Who in the Ranks of the Organized Textiles, etc.

Q.—What was the first big strike of textile workers in the South?

A.—A strike of 7,000 cotton mill workers in the South in 1834. It is believed to have been the first big walkout, though there were smaller strikes in earlier years.

Q.—What is a short definition of a trade union?

A.—An organized association of workers formed for the purpose of promotion of their common interests.

Q.—When did the American Federation of Labor first make a declaration on the immigration question?

A.—In 1917, when the convention for that year said: "There can be no question that the concerted immigration is working a great injury to the people of our country."

Q.—What is the membership of the American Federation of Labor?

A.—The paid membership in August, 1933, was 1,623,750. A. F. of L. headquarters estimate that at the beginning of September, 1934, the total organized strength of the labor movement was 1,650,000. This includes those unable to pay dues because of unemployment.

Q.—Who said, "The problem of the laborer is not to get ahead, but to get along with those who desire to exploit and to give them constantly better opportunities for life and work?"

A.—Samuel Gompers.

Q.—How many States still lack old age security laws?

A.—Twenty.

Q.—How many local unions are there in the United States?

A.—23,000. There are 109 national unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.

Q.—What does labor hold to be the basic principle of relief for the unemployed?

A.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council says in its report to the San Francisco convention: "Work is the keynote of any relief program. A well-planned program of public works and national conservation is the most direct way to start up the depressed heavy or durable goods industries."

Q.—Does labor believe that the Recovery Act should be extended to cover farm workers?

A.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council says in its report to the San Francisco convention: "The entire agricultural labor organization has so far been left without protection in regard to wages, hours, organization, or in dealing with employers. Some recovery Act to the field of agricultural labor should be passed, and a broadening of the act now in existence, or supplementary act pertaining to agricultural labor."

Q.—How many local unions are directly affiliated with the A. F. of L.?

A.—On August 31, 1934, there were 1,650,000 local and Federal labor unions with direct affiliation.

Q.—Are lumber workers being organized?

A.—Yes. There are now 130 local unions of lumber and sawmill workers in 21 States and in Canada.

DO IT YOURSELF!  
Do not leave what you can do to somebody else to do. That is what we mean by "do it yourself." The way in which to strengthen the union is to increase its activity and augment its resources. The more every member tries to do his or her part, the more the union invariably grows and gets stronger and better able to fight the battles of labor effectively.











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